RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: After the raid on the Travancore National Bank at Ootty, the Commissioner, Devicolam, brought to the notice of Government the possibility of the revolutionary movement spreading to Travancore and Government thought it better to take all possible precautionary measures.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Was not that riot done by thieves alone and not by revolutionaries?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: The raid on the Bank was made by revolutionaries, and Government thought that they should take steps to prevent the spread of the revolutionary movement into Travancore.

MR. KALLUR NARAYANA PILLAI: തലയാർ മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും സമീപപ്രദേശങ്ങളിലും താമസിക്കുന്നതു ഏതു വർഗ്ഗക്കാരാണ്?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: പലരുമുണ്ട്. അധികവും തമിഴരാണെന്നാണു തോന്നുന്നതു.

I hope the House will grant the demand asked for.

PRESIDENT: The motion is for a grant of Rs. 1,080 under Police. I put it that the demand be passed.

The motion was passed.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

MR. L. H. JACOB (*Ag. Chief Engineer*): Sir, I move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 99,999 for the formation of a separate P. W. D. Division to attend to the minor irrigation works in the State.

In moving this demand I would like to make a few remarks about the object of this demand by way of explanation. The House is aware that a committee was appointed by the Government to go into the whole question of the bad state of irrigation in Travancore and this committee was appointed in March 1930 and they, after touring throughout the country and collecting all necessary information have submitted their report in November 1931. One of the main recommendations made by the committee was the formation of a separate Irrigation Division to improve the condition of irrigation in the State. The committee proposed that there should be one Executive Engineer and under him two Sub-division Officers. They also recommended that the Kodayar Project should be kept outside the purview of this Irrigation Division. I also agree with the committee in that respect. I think that the Kodayar Project should certainly be kept out of the scope of this division, as it is a large Project, and I do not think it is right that it should be placed under a Subdivision Officer, under a Division Officer with his head-quarters at Trivandrum or Quilon, wherever it may be. I would go one step further in regard to the sub-divisions. The committee have suggested only two sub-divisions, one at Kuttanad comprising the taluks of Vaikam, Shertallai, Kottayam, Mavelikara, Tiruvalla, Changanachery, Ambalapuzha, Karthikapalli and Parur with the head quarters of the Sub division Officer at Alleppey.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Page 1

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: Is not Mavelikara also included in that sub-division?

MR. L. H. JACOB: I think Mavelikara will be partly outside the operations of that sub-division.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Was not this demand sanctioned by the Finance Committee?

MR. L. H. JACOB: Yes, certainly. If this sub-division is formed at Kuttanad the sub-division officer will deal with all questions connected with the series of floods we are having in recent years. That is a big problem which would require very careful investigation. Granting that this sub-division is formed, it will leave the rest of the State, north of the Kuzhitura river, under one Sub-division Officer.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: May I know whether there are not minor irrigation works to be attended to south of the Kuzhitura river other than the Kodayar project?

MR. L. H. JACOB: I am coming to that.

In the northern parts of Travancore in the Muvattupuzha and Todupuzha taluks there are no less than one lakh of acres of land requiring irrigation and therefore I propose that there should be three Sub-division Officers one with his headquarters at Alleppey, an other at Quilon, and the third at Muvattupuzha or Perumbavoor.

As regards the Kodayar Project there are certainly minor irrigation works in that division south of the Kuzhitura river which we propose to leave under the Division Officer, Nagercoil, as at present.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: May I know the total area of paddy cultivation that is served by minor irrigation south of the Kuzhitura river?

MR. L H. JACOB: I am afraid, I have not got the figures.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I know the proportion of the amount that is going to be spent for minor irrigation proper and the charges in connection with the establishment?

MR. L. H JACOB: I am coming to that.

The headquarters of the division officer is proposed to be fixed at Quilon from where he can easily tour throughout the State.

As regards the grant asked for, the formation of a complete division will cost something like Rs. 71,739 for a full year for the staff alone. Therefore the remaining eight months of this year will require about Rs. 42,000 for staff and the balance 58,000 will be utilised for works. There is a balance of 58,000 rupees.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: May I know what is the amount recommended by the Minor Irrigation Committee for minor irrigation works in this State?

MR. L. H. JACOB: The committee recommended a grant of Rs. 5 lakhs every year. We are now asking for only one lakh for forming this division. The preliminaries for the formation of the division will take time; the sanctioned schemes will not be sufficient to warrant an allotment of Rs. 5 lakhs. The allotment is therefore fixed at one lakh limiting it to the actual requirements of the year.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I know when the Minor Irrigation Committee submitted its report?

MR. L. H. JACOB: In 1931.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: May I know whether there are large areas in the Vilavankod taluk where minor irrigation work has to be conducted?

MR. L. H. JACOB: In those areas minor irrigation will be attended to either by the Kodayar Project Division Officer or by the new Division Officer as the taluk extends on both sides of the river.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Did not the Minor Irrigation Committee recommend that all the area served by the minor irrigation department should be kept under a separate Division Officer?

MR. L. H. JACOB: I do not think they specifically said that.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Will the member be pleased to refer to the report of the committee, paragraph 104?

MR. L. H. JACOB: That is what we intend to do. But minor irrigation works south of Kuzhiturai will be under the care of the Division Officer, Nagercoil.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Because proper attention was not paid to the minor irrigation works, was it not the recommendation of the committee that works relating to minor irrigation should be placed exclusively under one officer?

MR. L. H. JACOB: It was also one of the recommendations that all the minor irrigation works should be separated and kept exclusively under a separate officer.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: That being the case, why should minor irrigation works in south Travancore be entrusted to the care of the Division Officer, Nagercoil, and not to an Irrigation Division Officer?

MR. L. H. JACOB: The Division Officer, Nagercoil, will be given control over those works because Nagercoil is a central place for south Travancore.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: May I know whether the recent flood damages in Neyyattinkara were hitherto attended to by Government?

MR. L. H. JACOB: That will be attended to.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Is the member aware of the breaches at Kottaram *ela*, Ammachi *ela*, Kurumathur *ela* and Methukummal *ela*?

MR. L. H. JACOB: Those will be attended to in due course.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Is the member aware that even now those *elas* lie uncultivated?

MR. L. H. JACOB; I am notaware.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Will the member be pleased to enquire into them and take immediate action?

PRESIDENT: That does not arise.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. L. H. JACOB: We have already 6 temporary irrigation sections and those sections will be absorbed under the new division. We have altogether, including this one lakh of rupees, about 2 lakhs for minor irrigation works. This amount will be spent this year. The department will go into the question of new schemes and probably we may be able to give more funds in the coming years as finances permit.

As regards the formation of an Irrigation Fund the question is being examined and is receiving close attention of Government.

With regard to the Irrigation Amendment Regulation what I have to submit is this. First let the irrigation division be formed under an Executive Engineer. He will go into the whole question and, after seeing the practical difficulties, suggestions will be made to amend the Regulation. I hope the House will sanction this grant.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI: Can the Chief Engineer assure the House that whatever works he undertakes in connection with minor irrigation will be completed before the next monsoon?

MR. L. H. JACOB. The department will try their best to carry out all the works properly.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI: The question is whether he will be able to complete all the works undertaken by him before the next monsoon. Otherwise it will be useless.

MR. L. H. JACOB: The department will do their best under the circumstances.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Will the member inform the House how many irrigation tanks have been actually improved and how many converted into play-grounds?

MR. L. H. JACOB: I have no information.

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara* cum *Nedumangad*): നെയ്യാറിൻകര താലൂക്കിൽ മൈനർ ഇറിഗേഷൻ ജോലി ധാരാളമായി ചെയ്യേണ്ടതായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നറിയാമോ?

MR. L. H. JACOB: Yes, there are.

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI: ഇനിയും അവിടെ ഏതു കുളങ്ങളാണ് നന്നാക്കാനുണ്ട്?

MR. L. H. JACOB: Yes, I know there are some more tanks to be improved.

MR. N. K PADMANABHA PILLAI: നെയ്യാറിൻകര താലൂക്കിലെ ഇറിഗേഷൻജോലികൾ നിർവ്വഹിക്കേണ്ട ഭാരം ഏതു സബ്ഡിവിഷനോടാണ് ചേർത്തിരിക്കുന്നത്?

MR. L. H. JACOB: Trivandrum East Sub-Division.

MR. K. K. THOMAS: May I know from the member what sort of minor irrigation work the department proposes to do in Kuttanad area?

MR. L. H. JACOB: The officers will enquire into the grievances of the ryots as regards the works they want to be done and the flood damages that require relief will be attended to.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Will the Chief Engineer tell us what proportion of this grant will be utilised for the staff and for irrigation proper?

MR. L. H. JACOB: The staff might take about Rs. 42,000 this year and there will be Rs. 58,000 for irrigation works.

MR. V. S. ARUMUKHAM PILLAI (*Tovala* cum *Agastisvaram*): Is the member aware that there are large minor irrigation works to be attended to in Tovala and Agastisvaram?

MR. L. H. JACOB: I don't think there are many.

MR. V. S. ARUMUKHAM PILLAI: May I know whether Government have received representations from the ryots of Aramboly and Tovala for the construction of a reservoir for irrigation purposes in the Poigayar valley?

PRESIDENT: That is only a detail of the scheme. That is not relevant.

MR. C. M JOSEPH (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): ചങ്ങനാശേരി താലൂക്കിൽ ചെയ്യാനുദ്ദേശിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന വേലകളിൽ പാലക്കൽതോട്ട, കറിപ്പുഴതോട്ട, ഇവയുടെ ജോലികൂടി ഉൾപ്പെട്ടുത്തുമോ?

PRESIDENT: You cannot ask such questions under this heading.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Sir, the scheme for which Mr. Jacob is now asking funds is one which does not appear to be similar to the one that has been recommended by the Minor Irrigation Committee after a prolonged tour and after gathering evidence and after looking into the needs of the different parts of Travancore and satisfying themselves of local conditions first-hand. Nor is this scheme similar to the one recommended by the then Chief Engineer, Mr. Vipan in 1929. The committee, finding that throughout Travancore minor irrigation works were not properly attended to, recommended that such works should be separately put under the exclusive charge of an Irrigation Engineer. The committee toured in Tovala, Agastisvaram, Aramboly, Vilavankod, Kalkulam and several other places and found that the minor irrigation works there also needed immediate attention. To a question which I put to Mr. Jacob for eliciting information as to the area of lands cultivated south of Kuzhitura under minor irrigation works, I am sorry I did not get any useful reply. If, Sir, responsible members of Government who come before this House for funds for schemes like this are unable to enlighten us on points which we want, and themselves do not know for what purpose they are asking funds for, I wonder how we can sanction such demands. With regard to the Kodayar Project about which mention was made by the member, there are areas in south Travancore which are not commanded by the Kodayar Project. What will be the fate of those areas which are not to be attended to by the new Irrigation Officer? Finding that they also require *immediate* attention, the committee recommended as follows:— (*vide* para 104):

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai.]

"We recommend therefore that there should be a separate P. W. D. Irrigation Division in charge of an Executive Engineer to be called the Irrigation Engineer attending to *all* irrigation works" .....

The recommendation of Mr. Vipan is contained in Appendix N of the Committee's report. The then Chief Engineer recommended, if the additional staff is sanctioned, he can make arrangements to give closer attention to irrigation works by utilising the services of the additional first grade Executive Engineer exclusively for irrigation including the working of the Kodayar Project. The Committee after satisfying themselves that that was insufficient went one step further. They said (*vide* para 102).

„The Kodayar Project in the extreme south would absorb too much attention from the Division Officer and the other works distributed all over the State would suffer thereby."

In para 104 containing the committee's recommendation they have emphasised the word "all." Now if this scheme brought forward by Mr. Jacob is sanctioned it follows that the lands now not commanded by the Kodayar Project will be left unattended.

I ask, Sir, whether for the reason there is a Kodayar Project which serves a certain set of people in that place, the others who are served only by the minor irrigation works should be penalised? Should not *these* minor irrigation works also receive consideration like other works? Therefore, unless the member would give us an assurance that every area in these taluks not commanded by the Kodayar Project will be given proper attention, I think I cannot find my way to support this demand.

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: Sir, it is with considerable reluctance that I stand up to oppose this demand for a supplementary grant. Although I have the honour to be a member of the Finance Committee, I reserved the right to oppose this grant in the open Council. Government are placing the non-official members of this House in an awkward position by putting them to the necessity of opposing such a grant: because, on the floor of this House, repeated representations were made to Government regarding the necessity for forming a separate Irrigation Division and the necessity for paying more attention to minor irrigation works. Sir, I do not oppose the spirit of this demand. But, to spend more on the establishment of the Public Works Department is perhaps a proposition which no non-official member will easily subscribe to. Every year we spend large sums of money on the establishment of the P. W. D., much larger perhaps than the resources of the country will permit: and it is really regrettable that Government should ask for further increase in establishment expenditure.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI: Has the member any idea of the condition of the various irrigation tanks and channels in the country after the recent floods?

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: They are really deplorable and Government must pay immediate attention to

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

them. I come from a constituency which has been affected most in this matter on account of the recent floods.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI: Does the member think that sufficient attention could be bestowed on these works in time unless the necessary establishment is provided for?

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: Certainly, they want sufficient staff. My point is that the present P. W. D. staff must be reduced and the necessary staff found thereby for this minor irrigation division now proposed.

MR. L. H. JACOB: May I ask in which division the member would suggest a reduction of staff?

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: It is not any one particular division that I am now speaking of; there must be a re-distribution of the territorial limits of the various divisions, so that, including the proposed minor irrigation division, we would have only the number of divisions that we now have. In that way, we can have full staff for the irrigation division.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Does the member agree that the staff now asked for is necessary for the proposed division, let alone the question of the present P. W. D. divisions being over-manned?

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: Certainly I would even suggest some more staff being made available for this minor irrigation division now proposed.

I wish to congratulate the Government and the Financial Secretary for the very accurate calculations that they have made in regard to this demand. They have asked for Rs. 99,999. They do not seem to ask for even one rupee more than what is actully needed.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: May I inform the House that credit for the so-called accuracy, referred to by my friend, is due to the Lower House, since it is they that reduced one rupee?

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: Yes, I know that.

As I said, the P. W. D. divisions are now over-staffed, and, by effecting retrenchment there, the staff necessary for the proposed minor irrigation division can be found.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI: Did not the member admit that the staff asked for now is necessary for the proposed division?

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: I have already stated that I would whole-heartedly vote even for some more staff for the proposed division. They do require more hands if they want to do their work conscientiously. Government, as we all see, are spending enormous sums of money on public works. We are all anxious about our financial position; and I do not think the Financial Secretary is now having comfortable sleep on account of the situation. That is why I oppose the demand.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. M. N. NARAYANA MENON: സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ ഡിമാൻറിനെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നതോടുകൂടി എനിക്കു ഒരു സംഗതി ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരേണ്ടതായിട്ടുണ്ട്: കുട്ടനാട്ടിൽ ഒരു ഇറിഗേഷൻ ബോർഡുവേണമെന്നു കഴിഞ്ഞ ഫ്ര കൊല്ലമായി പുഞ്ചകൃഷിക്കാർ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനോടു പരാതി പറഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കയാണു്. കൊല്ലം, കോട്ടയം, എന്നീ രണ്ടു ഡിവിഷനിലെ പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട പുഞ്ചകൃഷിക്കാരും കുട്ടനാട്ടിലെ പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട പുഞ്ചകൃഷിക്കാരും ചേർന്നു് ആലപ്പുഴവച്ചു് ഒരു വലുതായ മീറ്റിംഗ് നടത്തുകയും കുട്ടനാട്ടിലേക്കു് ഒരു ഇറിഗേഷൻ ബോഡ്ു് സ്ഥാപിക്കണമെന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനോടാവശ്യപ്പെടുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഇതുവരെയും അതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് ഒന്നുംതന്നെ ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ല. എന്നാൽ ഇറിഗേഷൻ വകുപ്പു പ്രത്യേകം തിരിച്ചു് ഇറിഗേഷൻ എൻജിനീയർമാരെ പ്രത്യേകം നിയമിക്കുന്ന ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ കുട്ടനാട്ടിലേക്കു ഒരു ഇറിഗേഷൻ ബോർഡുണ്ടാക്കണമെന്നു പറയുന്നതു് ഒട്ടും അസ്ഥാനത്തിലല്ല.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI: ഇറിഗേഷൻ ബ്രാഞ്ചു് പുതുതായി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് അതെങ്ങിനെ പ്രവൃത്തിനടത്തുന്നുഎന്നു കണ്ടശേഷം ഇറിഗേഷൻ ബോഡ്ിൻെറ ആവശ്യമുണ്ടോ എന്നു നോക്കിയാൽ പോരേ?

MR. M. N. NARAYANA MENON: ഇറിഗേഷൻ എൻജിനീയരെ നിയമിക്കുന്നതോടുകൂടി ഇറിഗേഷൻബോഡ്ും ഏർപ്പെടുത്തണമെന്നാണു് എനിക്കിവിടെ പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്. ഇറിഗേഷൻ വകുപ്പിലേക്കു കൊല്ലം, ആലപ്പുഴ, തൊടുപുഴ. ഈ മൂന്നു സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലായി മൂന്നു സബ്ഡിവിഷനാഫീസർമാർ വേണമെന്നാണു ചീഫ് എൻജിനീയർ ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്നതു്. അങ്ങിനെയാണെങ്കിൽ ഈ മൂന്നു സ്ഥലത്തിൻെറ മദ്ധ്യേയായ ആലപ്പുഴയായിരിക്കണം എക്സിക്യൂട്ടിവ് എൻജിനീയരുടെ ആഫീസിരിക്കേണ്ടതു്; കോട്ടയത്തായാലും തരക്കേടില്ല.

ൻസ്,ൻസ്ൻ തുക ചേർത്തിട്ടുള്ളതിൽ ഒരു വലിയ ഭാഗം ശമ്പളച്ചിലവിലേക്കുവേണ്ടി വരുമെന്നാണു തോന്നുന്നതു്. എന്നാൽ ഈ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവു കുറയ്ക്കാൻ സാധിക്കും. ഒട്ടുക്കു 8 ലക്ഷം രൂപാ ചിലവുചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നകാലത്തുള്ള സ്റ്റാഫുതന്നെ ഇപ്പോഴും എൻജിനീയർ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേക്കാവശ്യമില്ല. അതിനാൽ അവരിൽ കുറെ പേരെ കുറച്ചോ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ സൂപ്പർ ന്യൂമററിക്കാരെ ഇങ്ങോട്ടേയ്ക്കുട്ടത്തോ ചിലവു കുറയ്ക്കാവുന്നതാണു്.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

അതിനാൽ കുട്ടനാട്ടിലേക്കു ഒരു ഇറിഗേഷൻ ബോഡുവേണമെന്നും, ഇറിഗേഷൻ എക്സിക്യൂട്ടിവ് എൻജനീയരുടെ ആഫീസ് ആലപ്പുഴയോ കോട്ടയത്തോ ആയിരിക്കണമെന്നും ഉള്ള അഭിപ്രായങ്ങളെ പ്രകടിപ്പിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു ഈ ധനാഭ്യർത്ഥനയെ അനുകൂലിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, I wish to speak a few words in respect of this demand. It should not for a moment be understood that I am against any proposal for spending more money for irrigation works. Far from it. I am one who always feel that, in proportion to the increase in the State revenue, the expenditure for public works of utility has not been increased by Government so as to afford the maximum benefit to the people. In my view, the Public Works department is in fact one of the most useful of all Government departments. The growth and development of agriculture, industry and commerce of the country depend to a very large extent upon a well-planned system of proper irrigation and communication. But I have to strongly condemn the department for its inefficiency and slackness in the execution of its works. The proposed scheme is one which the Government could have considered at least at the time of the budget. The head of the department and Government knew sufficiently early that the outlay incurred every year for irrigation is insufficient and does not at all meet the full requirements of the people. A Minor Irrigation Committee was consituated to investigate the extent of the facilities for minor irrigation in the State and to submit proposals for their conservation, improvement and proper maintenance, etc., and the committee submitted its report so early as 17-2-1107. In the Administration Report for 1107, we are told that the recommendations of this committee, regarding amendments to the Irrigation Regulation and the rules thereunder and the remission of the levy of half contribution were considered by Government and that necessary amendments to the Regulation were being drafted by the Law Department. That being so, is there any justification for the Government for not bringing this demand at the time of the general budget.

Another aspect to which I wish to make a passing reference is the expenditure to be incurred on the establishment. The Chief Engineer now tells us that of Rs. 99,999 now demanded for this scheme, about Rs. 58,000 alone will be spent on actual irrigation works, while the rest of the allotment is to be spent for establishment. We are entirely in the dark as to the nature of the appointments to be made, the number of such appointments and the salaries to be given to the various officers proposed to be appointed under the scheme. The official member in charge of the subject does not place this House in possession of full information regarding these matters. It is no doubt regrettable that the establishment charges of the P. W. D. should have been the subject of repeated public criticisms. The Retrenchment Committee's report contains proposals for the reduction of the executive staff of the department. According to the opinion of thi

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. M. N. Parameswaran Pillai.]

committee by a process of retrenchment a saving of Rs. 46,980 could be made from the P. W. D. and Rs. 3,804 from the Maramat Circles. We also find from this year's budget that some of the officers of the P. W. D. and Maramat Departments are retained as "supernumeraries". Why not the Chief Engineer be asked to consider the whole question once again in the light of these observations made by me and to see whether he could not work the new scheme without incurring any additional expenditure for establishment.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Consistent with efficient supervision, does the member think that the present P. W. D. establishment is enough to supervise an annual expenditure of over thirty lakhs of rupees?

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I am of that opinion.

MR J. JOHN KATTAKAYAM (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupzha*): ഞാൻ ഈധനാഭ്യർത്ഥനയെഅനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. മൂവാറ്റുപുഴ, തൊടുപുഴ, മുതലായ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ ജലസേചന വിഷയമായി പലതുംചെയ്യുവാനുണ്ട്. അവിടങ്ങളിലൊക്കെ വെള്ളം കോരിയാണു നിലങ്ങൾ നനയ്ക്കുന്നതു്. കൃഷി സേചനവിഷയത്തിൽ ദക്ഷിണതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലേക്കു ഗവണ്മെൻറു വേണ്ട ആനുകൂല്യങ്ങൾ മുമ്പേതന്നെ ചെയ്തുകൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഈ വിഷയത്തിലെന്നല്ല മറ്റുപല വിഷയങ്ങളിലും ദക്ഷിണ തിരുവിതാംകൂർഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ദൃഷ്ടിയെ സവിശേഷം ആകർഷിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കയാണു്. ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെസ്ഥിതി താരതമ്യേനനോക്കുമ്പോൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറാനുകൂല്യം ലഭിക്കുന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ കുറെ പിന്നോക്കമാണു് നിൽക്കുന്നതു്. ഇപ്പോൾ തുടങ്ങാൻ പോകുന്ന മൈനർ ഇറിഗേഷൻ സംഗതിയിലും ഈ ചിറ്റമ്മനയം കാണിക്കാതെ മൂവാറ്റുപുഴ, തൊടുപുഴ, ഈ താലൂക്കുകൾ ക്കു സാരതരമായും, ഈ താലൂക്കുകളിലെ ജനസംഖ്യ, മുതലെടുപ്പു്, ഇവയനുസരിച്ചും വേണ്ട സംഖ്യ ചിലവാക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. L. H. JACOB: Sir, there are two main points which have been raised in the course of the debate. One is with regard to the irrigation works in the Kodayar area and the other with regard to establishment.

With regard to the works in the Kodayar area, I can assure the House that they will all be attended to. There is no intention on the part of Government to ignore them. The idea is to put them under the control of the local Executive Engineer, the man on the spot, who is just as capable of looking after the works as the new Irrigation Officer; and funds will no doubt be given to such works from time to time.

Then with regard to the establishment, we propose to have 1 Executive Engineer, 3 Assistant Engineers, (for the 3 sub-divisions),

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

1 First Grade Supervisor, 2 Second Grade Supervisors and 6 Third Grade Supervisors (for the 9 sections), and 1 Overseer and 3 Sub-Overseers, and the usual Division Office, Sub- Division Office and Section Office staff besides a small additional staff for the Chief Engineer's Office. This establishment is really absolutely necessary for proper and adequate supervision. Members will please realise that the tanks and channels are scattered all over the country and require very close attention from these officers. I should think that even the proposed staff is not quite adequate. The Irrigation Committee proposed 12 sections; I am now asking for only 9. Probably, in time we may have to increase the establishment. At present there are five territorial divisions in the State, Nagercoil, Trivandrum, Quilon, Kottayam and Alwaye. From my experience the work in these divisions is heavy. I don't think anybody here would like, and attempt, to revise the establishment of the present divisions and form, out of the result of such a revision, an irrigation division. Therefore, if the minor irrigation work is to be attended to in a satisfatory and efficient manner, I would ask that this staff be sanctioned.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI: Will the salaries of the new staff be in any way different from those on the previous occasions?

MR. L. H. JACOB: In almost every respect that will be the same as on the previous occasion.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: May I know whether the supernumeraries would not be absorbed into the new division?

MR. L. H. JACOB: Yes, they can be absorbed in the new division. They have all work up to the present.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Jacob, have you anything more to say on the subject?

MR. L. H. JACOB: I have nothing more to add, Sir.

PRESIDENT: The motion before the House is for a demand of Rs. 99,999 for the formation of a separate P. W. D. division to attend to the minor irrigation works in the State.

The motion was put to vote and carried.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I move for a grant of Rs. 4,033 under Administration of Justice. This grant is needed for the purpose of (1) the establishment of a Temporary First Class Magistrate's Court at Changanachery Rs. 2,577; and (2) the appointment of seven stenographers, each on a pay of Rs. 40-5/2-70, in the High Court from 1-5-1109, the posts of three temporary typists on Rs. 20-50 being abolished—Rs. 1,456.

With regard to the establishment of the Temporary First Class Magistrate's Court in Changanachery, I may add that the District Magistrate, Kottayam, has reported that there are heavy arrears in the Kottayam Division First Class Magistrate's Court consequent on the abolition of the two Munsiff-Magistrates' Courts stationed at Changanachery and Kanjirapalli recently by Government in the re-distribution

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly